

# ARKANSAS CAPITAL CORPORATION

Little Rock, AR



## OVERVIEW

Arkansas Capital Corporation (ACC) is a private, nonprofit finance company formed in 1957 through the efforts of Winthrop Rockefeller and other business leaders in Arkansas. ACC's mission is to empower entrepreneurs and stimulate economic growth within its community. ACC fosters regional economic development and creates and preserves employment opportunities while focusing on promoting growth and expansion among underserved communities. Since its creation, ACC and its partners have deployed over \$2.58 billion to small businesses and economic development projects. ACC is certified by the U.S. Department of Treasury as a CDFI Institution and by the Arkansas State Bank Department as an Economic Development Enterprise. These certifications affirm ACC's commitment to serving all communities, including unserved and underserved areas.

ACC promotes new opportunities by partnering with banks to provide loans to small and medium-sized businesses that do not meet the requirements for traditional bank financing. This allows for more flexible underwriting and often includes bank participants, SBA or USDA guarantees, smaller injection requirements, and longer terms. ACC offers loans for startups, acquisition and expansion of existing businesses, building or expanding commercial real estate, working capital, purchase of commercial equipment, facilitating the rehabilitation of properties, and debt refinance. Industries include restaurants, manufacturing, retail trade, professional services, and other services.

ACC has committed to increasing racial equity financing and has hired a Director of Community Development who leads ACC's efforts to become more involved in minority communities across Arkansas. Through sponsorships and participation in focused events, ACC is endeavoring to become the organization these underserved communities will turn to when contemplating the financing needed to start or expand their businesses.

ACC is also launching a new microlending program, which will be tailored to meet the needs of minority, rural, and women borrowers, providing loans in much smaller amounts than usually contemplated by area banks or other lenders.

## CERTIFIED PIES

Kreg and Samantha Stewart began Certified Pies, Arkansas's first black-owned pizzeria, in 2019 as a side business providing healthy meals. In 2020, they pivoted their focus after their friend, Harlem Wilson, made homemade pizzas for a birthday celebration. The trio decided to partner on the new venture and created Certified Pies. Operating out of a shared space, they were limited to 18 hours per week with no dine-in options. Despite these limitations, their carry-out business gained traction and operated at a profit. For Certified Pies to thrive, they knew they needed to find a new space for their business.

The partners invested over \$100,000 of equity but needed additional capital. Through a ten-year loan closed in May 2023, they leased and equipped a new dine-in space. They are now open full-time and have hired seven new employees. Samantha Stewart says, "I'm so thankful for ACC. Without these funds, we would not have been able to grow our business and be a catalyst for the success of other businesses."

## THREE-YEAR IMPACT

- ▶ \$80.8 million in loans
- ▶ \$420,000 in equity investments
- ▶ 166 community facilities financed
- ▶ 1,236 total businesses financed (285 minority-owned, 304 women-owned)
- ▶ Jobs created via financing: 2,766 jobs